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Secretary Mineta Announces Selection of San Francisco Airport For Innovative Air Quality Program

SAN FRANCISCO – U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta today announced that San Francisco International Airport has been selected as one of 10 airports around the country to participate in an innovative program to improve air quality by encouraging the use of alternative fuel vehicles. Sacramento International Airport also was selected to participate in the program.

The Inherently Low-Emission Airport Vehicle (ILEAV) program will substantially reduce ozone and carbon monoxide levels at airports that are located in areas where the air quality standards fail to meet the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) requirement. The program is projected to eliminate 1,100 tons of ozone pollutants and 2,300 tons of carbon monoxide in the San Francisco Bay area alone.

“Next week, President Bush will announce his National Energy Plan for America,” Secretary Mineta said in remarks at San Francisco International Airport. “ILEAV, and programs like it, are a good fit to that plan, because the Bush administration is committed to exploring innovative and cutting-edge technologies that promote fuel economy and a clean environment.”

Under the ILEAV program, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will provide 50 percent of the cost of low-emission vehicles as well as the cost of refueling and recharging stations, up to a total of \$2 million for each airport. The airports will fund the remaining costs.

In San Francisco, ILEAV funding will be used to acquire 316 low-emission vehicles, including baggage tugs, belt loaders and on-road vehicles, and 11 new electric “fast-charging” stations. The funds will be made available through the Airport Improvement Program of DOT’s Federal Aviation Administration. With local matching funds, the program represents a combined \$46 million nationwide investment by the government, airports and industry.

In addition to San Francisco and Sacramento, the other airports selected to participate in the program are Baltimore-Washington International; Baton Rouge, La., Metropolitan; Chicago O’Hare International; Dallas/Fort Worth International; Denver International; Hartsfield Atlanta International; New York’s John F. Kennedy International, and New York LaGuardia.

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